

***Remarks***

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-15 and 19-23 are pending.

Claims 16-18 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 2, 7-13 and 19-22 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner. Claims 1, 4 and 6 have been amended to more clearly define the claimed subject matter. New claim 23 has been added. Support for the amendments and new claim can be found throughout the specification as filed. Applicants assert that no new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

The present Amendment is made in response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment mailed January 17, 2007, which indicates that the Amendment filed on January 8, 2007 [sic, December 22, 2006] is non-compliant because a complete listing of all of the claims is not present. In particular, it is noted that the listing of claims does not include the text of all pending claims (including withdrawn claims).

Applicants have appropriately corrected the claim set herein, providing the text of all of the pending claims, including the withdrawn claims. It is believed that Applicants are now fully in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121. It is therefore respectfully requested that the claims re-presented herein be considered along with the remarks provided with the Amendment previously filed on December 22, 2006.

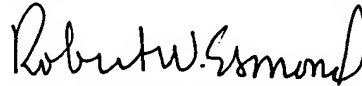
***Conclusion***

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Actions and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Robert W. Esmond  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 32,893

Date: January 24, 2007

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934  
(202) 371-2600

634359\_1.DOC